

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of ordering a digital image service over a communication network, comprising the steps of:

(a) at a first image system, viewing and selecting at least one digital image;

(b) selecting the digital image service to be ordered and generating an image order request comprised of the at least one digital image and order information;

(c) selecting a second image system, remote from the first image system, for providing the digital image service;

(d) transmitting the image order request over the communication network from the first image system to the second image system;

(e) at the second image system, accessing the at least one digital image and order information from the image order request; and

(f) providing the requested digital image service whereby the at least one digital image is incorporated in an imaging product, processed to produce an edited digital image, stored, retrieved, or transmitted over the communication network.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the imaging product is a hard copy image print of the at least one digital image, a digital media containing the at least one digital image, a product that uses the at least one digital image for an end product, a software product comprising the at least one digital image.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first or second image system is an image capture device, an imaging kiosk, a personal computer, an imaging application station, an image archive, an imaging display station, a digital order fulfillment lab, or a preview and select station.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the order information comprises user information, vendor information, product information, source image details, print conditional information, or ICC profiles.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting the at least one digital image from the second image system to a third image system.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the third image system is the first image system.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of selecting the digital image service to be ordered for the edited digital image and generating the image order request without having to resend a digital image in the image order request.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first image system is a client and the second image system is a server.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of, prior to transmitting the image order request:

- communicating a storage size requirement associated with the image order request from the first image system to the second image system;
- the second image system determining whether the storage size is available on the second image system;
- communicating the result of the determination to the first image system; and
- the second image system reserving the storage size if the storage size is available on the second image system.

10. The method of Claim 1, prior to providing the requested digital image service, further comprising the steps of:

- the first image system communicating over the communication network to the second image system, a status request of the transmitted image order request; and

in response to the status request, the second image system communicating over the communication network to the first image system, an order completion status.

11. The method of Claim 1, prior to selecting the digital image service to be ordered, further comprising the steps of:

the first image system transmitting a request over the communication network for available image services from the second image system; and

in response to the request, the second image system transmitting over the communication network a list of digital image services available from the second image system.

12. The method of Claim 1, prior to selecting the digital image service, further comprising the steps of:

the first image system transmitting a request over the communication network for locale information associated with the second image system; and

in response to the request, the second image system transmitting over the communication network a list of the locale information associated with the second image system.

13. The method of Claim 3, wherein the image capture device is a digital camera, video camcorder, scanner or fax machine.

14. The method of Claim 3, wherein the imaging display station is a cellular phone, PDA or other display appliance, television or projection screen.

15. A system for transmitting and accessing an image order request comprised of at least one image and order information over a

communication network from a first image system to a second image system remote from the first image system, comprising:

(a) means for enabling uploading of the image order request to the communication network;

(b) means for enabling transmitting of the image order request to the second image system for imaging service fulfillment;

(c) means for enabling previewing and selecting of the at least one image of the image order request;

(d) means for enabling previewing of the at least one image and image editing of the at least one image;

(e) means for enabling storing of the at least one image using the image order request in an image archive;

(f) means for enabling retrieving of the at least one image using the image order request from the image archive; and

(g) means for enabling downloading of the at least one image for viewing or generating another image order request without including the at least one image in the another image order request.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the at least one image of the image order request is referenced through image edit information in a second image order request without transmitting the at least one image.

17. The system of Claim 15, wherein the digital image service is the fulfillment by the second image system for providing least one imaging product or imaging service.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the imaging product is a hard copy image print of the at least one digital image, a digital media containing the at least one digital image, a product that uses the at least one digital image for an end product, a software product comprising the at least one digital image.

19. The system of Claim 17, wherein the imaging service is a service supporting the processing, storage, retrieval or transmission of the at least one image.

20. The system of Claim 15, wherein the image system is an image capture device, an imaging kiosk, a personal computer, an imaging application station, an image archive, an image display station, a digital order fulfillment lab, or a preview and select station.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein the image capture device comprises a digital camera, video camcorder, scanner or fax machine.

22. The system of Claim 20, wherein the image display station comprises a cellular phone, PDA or other display appliance, television or projection screen.

23. The system of Claim 15, further comprising a software program having a first and second portion for transmitting and accessing the image order request over the communication network, the first portion residing on the first image system and the second portion residing on the second image system.

24. The system of Claim 23, wherein the software program employs a request/response model in a SOAP layer using XML over HTTP for data exchange.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the data exchange is associated with transmitting and accessing the image order request, locale information, list of available digital image services, ICC profile support, status of a image order request, or storage size requirement request.

26. A method for ordering a digital photographic product produced using at least one digital image, from a client connected to a fulfillment system by a communications network, comprising the steps of:

- (a) the client requesting an order identifier from the fulfillment system;
- (b) the fulfillment system verifying information about a user ordering the digital photographic product;
- (c) the fulfillment system generating the order identifier and communicating the order identifier to the client in response to the request;
- (d) the client communicating a storage size requirement associated with the order, along with the order identifier, to the fulfillment system;
- (e) the fulfillment system determining whether the storage size is available on the fulfillment system, reserving the storage size if the storage space is found to be available, and communicating the result of the determination to the client; and
- (f) in response to the communication of the result of the determination, the client communicating the order, along with the order identifier, for the digital photographic product, the order including the at least one digital image, only if the storage space is found to be available.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein the order identifier is encoded using XML, and the order is encoded using binary data.

28. The method of Claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

- (g) the fulfillment system storing the order for the digital photographic product for later fulfillment;

- (h) the client communicating a status request and the order identifier to the fulfillment system; and

- (i) in response to the status request, the fulfillment system communicating whether the order has been successfully completed.

29. A method for ordering a digital photographic product produced using at least one digital image, from a client connected to a fulfillment system by a communications network, comprising the steps of:

(a) the client requesting an order identifier from the fulfillment system;

(b) the fulfillment system verifying information about a user ordering the digital photographic product;

(c) the fulfillment system generating the order identifier and communicating the order identifier to the client in response to the request;

(d) the client transmitting to the fulfillment system over the communication network a request for a list of available products available for fulfillment by the fulfillment system;

(e) the fulfillment system transmitting the list of available products to the client; and

(f) the client transmitting an image order request to the fulfillment system for at least one of the products available from the list of available products.